



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Tuesday, November 25, 2008

Arizona Department of Public Safety Vehicle Theft Task Force arrests suspected motorcycle thief with the aid of a red light camera

On October 2, 2008, a detective with the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) who is assigned to the Vehicle Theft Task Force located a stolen motorcycle at the Budget Suites near 27th Avenue and Yorkshire in Phoenix. A male suspect walked over to the motorcycle. Contact was made with the suspect and he was found with two forged Arizona drivers licenses. The suspect was booked for forgery. At the time of the arrest, he was out on bail and was awaiting trial on numerous other charges including auto theft, drug offenses, forgery and weapons charges.

Eight days after the arrest, the victim of the stolen motorcycle received a red light photo citation from the City of Phoenix. The photograph clearly shows the suspect riding the stolen motorcycle through a red light 17 hours after the motorcycle was reported stolen. He was wearing the same shirt as when he was arrested. Theft of means of Transportation was added to the suspect's charges. He has been indicted by the Maricopa County Grand Jury on all counts.

Suspect: Thomas Paul Norton 40 (transient)
Charges: Forgery, Theft of Means of Transportation

(photos and video available on request)

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.

Press Inquiries:

PO BOX 6638 | Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638 | www.azdps.gov | pio@azdps.gov